

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3235

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: A. STATE 031282 B. STATE 032790 C. STATE 32953

1. ANDERSON AND PASCOE CALLED ON MFA INFORMATION DEPT DEPUTY DIRECTOR HSIAO TEH TO CONFIRM CHINESE INTENTION TO ALLOW AN EXTENSION OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION'S VISIT TO THE U.S. TO PERMIT A SAN FRANCISCO SHOWING.

WE ALSO CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS ON TIMING AND CHANGES IN THE AGREEQENTS (REF A) AND PROVIDED COPIES OF OUR PROPOSED DRAFT LETTER AND NOTE (REFS B AND C). HSIAO CONFIRMED THAT CHINESE WILLING TO EXTEND EXHIBITION, INDICATING CHANGE WAS RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS TO CHINESE DELEGATION SENT TO U.S. FOR EXHIBITION OPENING AND TO PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTED DATED FOR SAN FRANCISCO SHOWING HSIAO COMMENTED THAT CHINESE THINKING ON THE LENGTH OF THE EXTENSION DIFFERED MARKEDLY FROM THE DATES IN OUR PROPOSAL. HE REPEATED CHINESE CONCERN THAT THE

EXHIBITS HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM CHINA FOR SUCH A LONG TIME AND INDICATED THAT AN EXTENSION TO OCTOBER WAS UNACCEPTABLE. HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, OFFER ANY ALTERNATIVE DATES. HSIAO

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REACTED NEGATIVELY TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR A WEEK

EXTENSION FOR KANSAS CITY AND THE THIRTY-PLUS DAY PERIOD FOR TRANSFER FROM KANSAS CITY TO SAN FRANCISCO. WHILE NOT FLATLY RULING OUT KANSAS CITY EXTENSION, HE SAID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE U.S. WOULD BE ON THE TOTAL LENGTH OF TIME THE EXHIBIT WOULD BE IN THE UNITED STATES; AND THAT IT WAS UP TO US TO ALLOT THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT WOULD BE IN EACH CITY. HE DESCRIBED THE PROPOSED TURNOVER TIME AS EXCESSIVE, POINTING OUT THAT THE NORMAL TIME FROM CLOSING IN ONE CITY TO OPENING IN ANOTHER, EVEN ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES, WAS TWENTY-ONE DAYS.

3. HSIAO ATTACHED LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO QUESTION OF WHICH SIDE SHOULD INITIATE THE REQUIRED NEW EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AMENDING OUR EARLIER EXCHANGE BUT AGREED THAT U.S. WOULD DO SO AND CHINESE SIDE WILL RESPOND. HE WAS VAGUE ON WHEN HE WOULD HAVE A REPLY ON OUR PROPOSAL, IMPLYING AT ONE POINT THAT WE SHOULD RECONSIDER OUR PROPOSAL IN LIGHT OF HIS COMMENTS AND COME UP WITH NEW DATES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO THE EXTENSION, THE CHINESE APEAR TO BE READY FOR CONSIDERABLE BACK AND FORTH ON ITS LENGTH. HSIAO DID NOT SEEM MOVED BY THE MID-SEPTEMBER SCHOOL OPENING AS AN ARGUMENT FOR EXTENSION. WE WOULD GUESS, WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE, THAT AT MAXIMUM THE CHINESE ARE NOW THINKING ABOUT A FLAT THREE MONTH EXTENSION TO ABOUT SEPTEMBER 7.

5. TACTICALLY, WE SHOULD AT THIS POINT AWAIT A CHINESE REPLY TO OUR PROPOSALS. THIS, HOWEVER, WILL PROBABLY TAKE AT LEAST TEN DAYS AND PERHAPS MORE. IF DEPARTMENT FEELS IT IS NECESSARY TO FORCE THE PACE TO ALLOW SAN FRANCISCO ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE, IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE CONSIDERING A SECOND APPROACH BASED ON NO EXTENSION FOR KANSAS CITY, A TWENTY-ONE DAY TURNOVER, AND THREE MONTHS IN SAN FRANCISCO, I.E. CLOSING IN SAN FRANCISCO ABOUT SEPTEMBER 28. WE WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME SUGGEST PUTTING HEAT ON PRCLO TO SPEED UP THE MFA ON THIS END. HSIAO'S EXPOSITION OF HUANG CHEN'S ROLE MAY HAVE CONTAINED A SLIGHT HINT OF RESENTMENT.

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